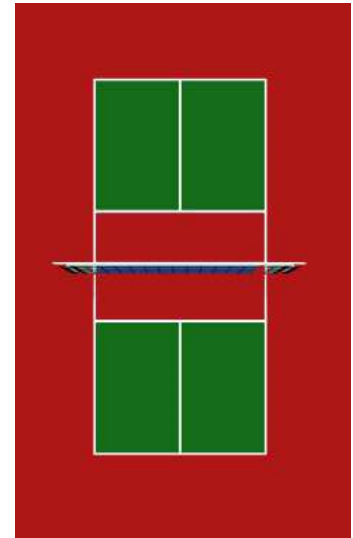


## Jump to story ...

1. [Sarnia – Pickleball Hub](#)
2. [Vernon Cadets Learn to Play Pickleball](#)
3. [The Vernon Pickleball Association Bannister Honda](#)
4. [Pickleball Courts Open in Kenora](#)
5. [Growing Para-Pickleball In New Brunswick](#)
6. [Efforts and successes in Windsor-Essex.](#)



## Sarnia – Pickleball Hub

Sarnia pickleball players had no quality / safe place to play pickleball. In the spring of 2017 Terry McCallum & I decided to approach Sarnia Parks & Recreation to get Pickleball on their radar. While they may have heard about pickleball, after several meetings they began to understand the tremendous growth of the sport world wide as well as in our own city, and the need for courts.

By the summer of 2017 Terry and I had the city's attention and the search began for a suitable site. We also started gathering ideas for the layout. I networked with various clubs throughout North America, including Ontario, Florida, Michigan to gather facts on things they did during their planning and construction phases what worked or did not work. One big standout was built less courts to ensure you can add court separation and safety fences between each court vs building them to close without fences. In the fall of 2017 our site was selected.

Terry and I spent countless hours planning the final layout, networking with contractors to learn about court construction, materials, etc.

We also began to discuss how we might enhance this project and really make it one of the best in Ontario.

Terry suggested we apply for an Ontario Trillium Grant! He had experience in the grant application process, so we decided why not. We received a bit of assistance in fine tuning the wording, but in the end we received major funding from Trillium and the monies paid for our sun shelter, concrete sidewalks, etc. Terry also applied and received grant funding from other sources which have further added to our Pickleball Hub. Some of these funds have paid for windscreens, squeegee, cordless leaf blower, etc.



Spring 2018 construction began to refurbish and convert two 50 year old abandoned tennis courts to six pickleball courts. Asphalt prep work was done, sun shelter was built and fence posts were installed. Final finish coat of new asphalt was put down and all the concrete work was completed.

Site was now ready for the acrylic finish but due to fencing and weather delays we were forced to wait until spring 2019.

Late May 2019, finishing contractor (JustFourTennis) was on site as soon as the weather permitted. They worked long hours over a two week period to complete the most important and final steps, levelling the low spots, sealing the court surface, then applying the final colours for our new courts. JustFourTennis did a fabulous job, highly recommended.

It appears our initiative, countless hours & efforts has paid off. As you can see from the aerial photo, the new Pickleball Hub is spectacular. The city parks and recreation department performing some finishing touches now.



*Wayne Spitzig / Terry McCallum - Sarnia Bluewater Pickleball*



## Vernon Cadets Learn to Play Pickleball

July 22nd, 2019

For the first time, the Vernon Pickleball Association (V.P.A.) had the opportunity to work with the Vernon Cadet Training Center as part of their Basic Fitness and Sports Course.

For four afternoon sessions this past week V.P.A. volunteer instructors showed the cadets the basics of the game, culminating with the cadets playing real Pickleball games. Pickleball is known as being the fastest growing sport in North America, and the V.P.A. was excited to showcase the sport to these younger players, exposing them to the game as it quickly grows in popularity.

There were approximately 120 cadets who took part in the lessons over the four afternoons. The Vernon Cadet Training Center hosts youth aged 12 – 18 from all across Canada for two, three and six week courses. The Basic Fitness and Sports course is part of their training where they learn to play a variety of sports to enhance their knowledge about physical fitness. After the basic course, some cadets can go on to take a Fitness and Sports Instructor Course at Albert Head Cadet Training Centre in Metchosin, B.C.

For more information about playing Pickleball in Vernon, please go to [www.vernonpickleball.com](http://www.vernonpickleball.com).

For more information about the Vernon Cadet Training Centre, please contact Captain Melodie Fallah, Unit Public Affairs Representative, Vernon Cadet Training Centre, Canadian Armed Forces 250-540-2378. <https://www.facebook.com/VernonCadets/>



## The Vernon Pickleball Association Bannister Honda 'Put Your Paddle to the Medal' Tournament a Smashing Success

by Anne Longley, VPA Publicity

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

A year to the day of the grand opening of the dedicated Pickleball Courts in Vernon, BC, the Bannister Honda 'Put Your Paddle to the Medal' sanctioned tournament was held August 23 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Okanagan Wealth Advisors Pickleball Complex. With over 300 registrants and near-perfect weather, the tournament was a resounding success.

The Tournament was comprised of two age groups – 16 – 59 and 60+, with Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Men's Doubles in 3.0 – 5.0 skill levels. Interestingly, the youngest competitor was 21 yr old Jordan Renwick from Kelowna (5.0) and the oldest was 82 yr old Wally Herrmann (3.0) from Vernon – both gold medal winners in their skill group and age level. More than 100 Vernon Pickleball Association members volunteered throughout the three-day tournament in positions ranging from referees and line judges to scorekeeping & announcing or bringing in home-baked goodies daily. There were door prizes and a 50/50 draw with proceeds going towards the 'Light the Court' fund.



Comments from competitors to spectators were all positive and enthusiastic. Spencer Munro (4.5) from Kamloops, BC stated "Most well run tournament I've played. Hats off and thank you to all

involved!” and Michael “Botts’ Botterill (4.5) from West Kelowna said “Had a blast at your new facility. Can’t wait to come back!! Thanks for hosting us!”

Just a year ago in August was the grand opening of the Okanagan Wealth Advisors Pickleball Complex in Vernon with 12 dedicated outdoor courts and 2 practice courts. The court opening in 2018 was a



culmination of five years of hard work and extraordinary fundraising efforts by the Vernon Pickleball Association members. The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) City of Vernon & the District of Coldstream provided the 15-year land lease and a \$300,000 grant in funding towards the court construction. The Vernon Pickleball Association provided the balance of funds along with countless hours of volunteer labour to complete the project. RDNO estimated it would have cost the public \$1.4 million to construct this facility. The Vernon Pickleball Association now operates and manages the courts in a lease agreement with the City of Vernon.

The Vernon Pickleball Association is a non-profit society offering both recreational and competitive Pickleball play year-round. For more information on how to join, please go to the VPA webpage at <https://www.vernonpickleball.com/> or email [vernonpickleball@gmail.com](mailto:vernonpickleball@gmail.com).





Photos courtesy of Doug Hoover - [Doughoover@gmail.com](mailto:Doughoover@gmail.com)



## Pickleball Courts Open in Kenora

On a sunny morning in July a group of over 100 current and former members, local dignitaries and curious onlookers gathered for the grand opening of the Kenora Pickleball Courts. After a journey over the past three years the dream of permanent Pickleball courts in Kenora, Ontario became a reality.



The eight permanent courts are situated next to beautiful Rabbit Lake and alongside a world class rowing club, sandy beach and Garrow Park. The courts were made possible through grants from the Ontario Trillium Fund, New Horizons for Seniors Fund, Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Community Giving Fund and generous donations from the club members and Pickleball community.

After the speeches, the ribbon cutting and Pickleball demonstrations, the club celebrated with a day of Pickleball hosting a fun tournament and Bar-B-Que to celebrate and to try out the new courts.

Many thanks to the City of Kenora and all who have made this project a reality, and now there's only one thing left to do and that's go play in Kenora Ontario!





## Growing Para-Pickleball In New Brunswick

Recently, I met with Pierre-Yves Roy, Director of Québec Para-Pickleball affiliated with the “Fédération Québécoise de Para-Pickleball”. As well, I’ve met the new ParaSport NB full-time program coordinator, Simon Richard, where I saw at the Tennis Moncton courts, a 12-year-old young man from Cap Pelé, being taught Para-Tennis by Bernard Lapointe. It was quite impressive and we’re hoping to do the same with Para-Pickleball.

Three years ago our membership was less than 50 members, now we count well over 1,000 members within our ranks and it continues to grow. After speaking with Mr. Roy, and Mr. Richard, we feel that the time is ripe to introduce Para-Pickleball to New Brunswickers.

In the fall, we will be going around to the three major cities of New Brunswick - Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint-John to demonstrate this sport and continue with the development/promotion of this inclusive activity amongst your members. Please take a look at the Para-Pickleball video, which was filmed last winter at Naples, Florida at the US Open. The site is: <https://youtu.be/62RQhodaV2E>

For more information please contact Michel Legault. [michel.legault@icloud.com](mailto:michel.legault@icloud.com)



Para Pickleball - How to play

-

## Efforts and successes in Windsor-Essex.

One of the ways we grow the sport is to invite the area Mayors to participate at our 55+ games in June. We call it the 'Battle Of The Mayors'. By doing this we showcase the sport and get them more involved. They have so much fun as you can see from the video in the link below.

[This video](#) was from last year. This year we had 5 mayors participate. This event has very much enhanced Pickleball awareness through our municipal leaders.

For the Tecumseh Outdoor Court re-opening, along with the mayor we also included town councillors, Parks Director and Recreation staff.

Here is the link to last year's TV Coverage of the 'Battle of the Mayors'

<https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1141518>